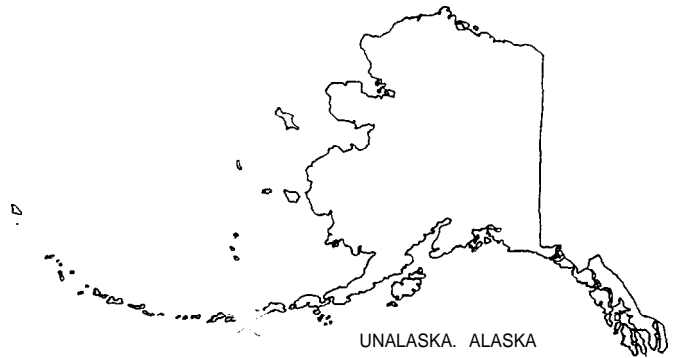


CITY OF UNALASKA

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December 20, 1999

Jeff Ottesen, Statewide Planning Chief
State of Alaska
Dept of Transportation and Public Facilities
Division of Statewide Planning
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Jeff:

The City of Unalaska is pleased to respond to the State's December 3 transportation package summary regarding the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. The City also appreciates the State's efforts to keep the affected communities informed of the plan's progress.

With respect to transportation in the Alaska Marine Highway System's (AMHS) Pacific Coast Marine Corridor, the City favors 22 M/V Tustumena trips per year. If the schedule is slated over the service period of 44 weeks, as the State has noted, we presume the trip load will be one trip every two weeks, excepting 8 weeks a year.

The City expects great benefits with the increased runs along the Chain. Obvious positive impacts will be to businesses, transshipment commerce and citizenry. The increased runs will tremendously assist tourism in the region as well. With the need for economic diversification so apparent in our communities, and the benefits associated with the AMHS, it is clear the 22-trip alternative should be implemented.

The City offers a couple of considerations, which are not discussed in the December 3 correspondence. We encourage the State to examine scheduling the eight-week downtime in the slower winter months-possible mid-January to mid-March. The resulting AMHS schedule would allow holiday season travel and is nestled against much of our winter storm season; it also allows for increased movement associated with the arrival of springtime. The State is also encouraged to examine the effects of increased frequency of M/V Tustumena visits during peak traffic months, such as June and July, with a corresponding decrease in frequency near the beginning and end of the scheduled downtime.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact Scott Diener, Director of Planning for the City of Unalaska, at 907-581-3100. Again, the City of Unalaska appreciates the opportunity to comment on the transportation alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kelty".

Frank Kelty, Mayor
City of Unalaska

cc: Scott Seabury, City Manager
Jim Severns, Ports Director